

I. AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of screening for modulators of human C-reactive protein comprising:

obtaining a human C-reactive protein;
contacting the C-reactive protein with at least a first candidate substance;
assaying for an interaction between the C-reactive protein and the first candidate substance with an assay that determines modulation of C-reactive protein-induced expression of a molecule relative to C-reactive protein-induced expression of the molecule in the absence of the first candidate substance; and
determining whether any modulation of C-reactive protein induced expression of the molecule occurs.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assay comprises assaying for C-reactive protein induction of the expression of an adhesion molecule.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the adhesion molecule is ICAM-1, VCAM, or E-selectin.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first candidate substance inhibits C-reactive protein induced expression of the adhesion molecule.
5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first candidate substance enhances C-reactive protein induced expression of the adhesion molecule.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assay comprises assaying for C-reactive protein induction of the expression of a receptor, signaling molecule, cytokine, adhesion molecule, or an enzyme.
- 7-13. (canceled)
14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining C-reactive protein comprises procuring an expressed C-reactive protein.
15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the C-reactive protein is procured by isolation from a cell.
16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the cell comprises a recombinant nucleic acid sequence encoding a human C-reactive protein and the C-reactive protein is expressed from the recombinant nucleic acid sequence.
17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the C-reactive protein is isolated from serum.
18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the serum is human serum.
- 19-27. (canceled)
28. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first candidate substance is comprised in serum.
29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the serum is human serum.
30. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first candidate substance is admixed with serum prior to contacting the C-reactive protein with the first candidate substance.
31. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first candidate substance is contained in naturally occurring serum.
32. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identity of the first candidate substance is known prior to performance of the screening method.

33. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identity of the first candidate substance is unknown prior to performance of the screening method.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the first candidate substance is comprised in a mixture of possible candidate substances.

35. (original) The method of claim 33, further comprising determining the identity of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

36. (original) The method of claim 33, further comprising isolating the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

37. (original) The method of claim 33, further comprising determining characteristics of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

38-62. (canceled)

63. (new) An *in vitro* method of screening for modulators of human C-reactive protein in serum comprising:

obtaining a human C-reactive protein from human serum;

contacting the C-reactive protein with at least a first candidate substance *in vitro*;

assaying for an interaction between the C-reactive protein and the candidate substance by
assaying for C-reactive protein induction of the expression of ICAM-1, VCAM,
or E-selectin in endothelial cells.

64. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein the identity of the first candidate substance is unknown prior to performance of the screening method.

65. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein the first candidate substance is comprised in a mixture of possible candidate substances.

66. (new) The method of claim 63, further comprising determining the identity of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

67. (new) The method of claim 63, further comprising isolating the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

68. (new) The method of claim 63, further comprising determining characteristics of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.